

CoST work plan summary- Ethiopia

Process

Please describe briefly the process to draft your workplan and who was involved from which stakeholder groups.

On 24 February, 2009 a meeting of c. 35 stakeholders agreed to implement CoST and the preparation of the draft work plan and the budget for the pilot phase left to the coordinator to work with some MSG group members and the expert sent from the Secretariat. The interim working group members for the draft work plan is listed under Appendix A. The draft work plan & the budget for the pilot phase were considered during the 2nd MSG meeting on 26 March 2009. The draft work plan was prepared with the consultant Hugo Warner from the CoST international secretariat in London.

Work Plan objective

Record the central objective of your workplan here.

CoST Ethiopia has three central objectives:

- The main objective of the work plan is to provide a clear guide for pilot phase implementation and instrumental for monitoring and evaluation on of activities to ensure CoST in Ethiopia achieves the stated objectives. (See Appendix B for Work Plan & Appendix C, D and E for Budget).
- Effective system of information disclosure on procurement and delivery of construction services, which will ensure value for money.
- The elimination of hidden costs through the disclosure process.

Activities

Please provide an overview of the activities contained in your workplan and how they support the CoST process.

CoST Ethiopia's pilot phase will consist of the following activities:

1. An MSG will be established in Ethiopia to mobilise support, advocate disclosure of project information and act as a steering committee for the initiative.
2. A communications strategy will be designed and implemented to (a) garner support for CoST and maintain support for the pilot activities, within budget, and (b) decide how to manage the information that is disclosed and assured.
3. The MSG will work with the monitoring and evaluation consultant to arrive at a consensus on the objectives of CoST and the M&E framework at country level.
4. A baseline study will be conducted to assess current levels of transparency, and to provide a point of reference for cor indicators that are expected over time to change as a result of CoST. The baseline study will also assess procurement policy and practice and other initiatives to promote good governance in the construction sector.
5. Training sessions will be held with procuring entities, to inform them of the 'live' information disclosure needs.

6. Identification of further technical assistance throughout the pilot phase.
7. Together with the international secretariat, criteria for project inclusion will be developed. A long list of suitable projects generated and then a shortlist of projects for inclusion.
8. The MSG and champion will make sure that material project information not being disclosed is made available through lobbying or formal applications
9. The MSG will agree the focus for the assurance teams (ToRs) and appoint them. The assurance teams will verify and analyse the information on selected projects before presenting it to the MSG. The MSG will meet and discuss the implications of the findings, and identify further areas for action. Information will be released on a regular basis throughout the pilot phase
10. The findings of the assurance team work will then be disseminated in accordance with the communications strategy and feedback will be sought.
11. Finally, CoST Ethiopia's performance will be reviewed and the lessons learnt will be disseminated by:
 - A review in line with M&E recommendations;
 - A summary report; and
 - A plenary MSG meeting to address progress and examine the feasibility of taking CoST beyond the pilot phase.

Outputs

Here you should identify what will be the results of the support received. **These should be results that can be clearly recognised and measured**, for example: a training course delivered, report published, or percentage of an administrator's time.

1. MSG inception and concluding meetings held, with monthly meetings in between over 16 months
2. Monthly and quarterly reports
3. Training session delivered to procuring entities in CoST so that they are aware of its aims and information disclosure requirements
4. Three induction sessions carried out for the assurance teams
5. Assurance carried out for 20 pilot projects
6. Dissemination of results through website and hard copy reporting – CoST reports and newspaper reporting
7. Final report

Outcomes

Describe the wider impact of the support. Consider short term and long term impacts, as well as impacts on different stakeholder groups.

Outcome	Long or short term?
Raising public awareness of issues in the construction sector	Short term
Value for money of public sector construction projects will be	Short and long term

enhanced	
Streamlining of public sector procurement processes and, by extension, better use of government budget	Short and long term
Better voice for civil society	Long term
Increased trust in the public construction sector where people have historically viewed this as some kind of conspiracy between corrupt officials in government and the private sector	Long term
Increased competition in the construction sector	Long term
Increased trust on the part of the government in the private sector's capability to deliver	
Improved public sector accountability and transparency (wider effect)	Long term

Beneficiaries

List **each** stakeholder organisation that will directly benefit from this funding.

- **Construction contractors and their suppliers and Consultants.**
- **Procuring entities.**
- **The public at large.**
- **Investors and donors active in the construction sector.**
- **The Ethiopian government.**
- **The media.**
- **Civil society, in particular advocacy and transparency NGOs.**

Challenges and risks

Describe and explain any specific challenges and risks associated with the activities that your propose in your workplan.

Risk	Mitigating measure(s)
Size: the risk of projects of sufficient size not falling within the project lifespan (18 months), thereby depriving CoST of sufficient information for analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate regional state-level projects into CoST Ethiopia – not just federal ones • Regional state-level procurement entities take part in MSG
MSG: challenge to sustain the interests of members, ensure full participation and unity of purpose	Leadership role to be undertaken by champion and MSG chairman
Resistance to information disclosure by procuring entities, or competency shortfall resulting in a barrier to obtaining information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction / training for procurement entities • Advocacy for information disclosure to demonstrate its importance • Resort to legally-enforceable measures for disclosure
Lack of appropriate TA providers to do capacity building and induction	Seek technical assistance from outside – eg other CoST pilot countries – with international

	secretariat support
Assurance teams not sufficiently qualified, or with objectivity compromised	Objective and robust selection of assurance teams
Lack of understanding between MSG and assurance teams' work, including disagreement on results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective assistance in drafting ToRs for the assurance teams • Effective facilitation of meetings between MSGs and assurance teams

Meeting the CoST technical criteria

Which of the seven criteria will your work plan support?

1. For public sector construction projects above an agreed threshold, regular disclosure of material project information to a wide audience in a publicly accessible, comprehensive and comprehensible manner.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Procuring entities are subject to a credible audit process and, as far as practicable, projects are subject to credible, independent financial and technical audits.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. The adequacy of material project disclosures and audits are assessed by an independent, objective and technically competent assurance team, with publication of reports including any causes for concern in the information disclosed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. The application of this approach is extended to the main procuring entities assigned responsibility for public sector procurement, and related contractors.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. A multi-stakeholder group has oversight of the CoST process.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Civil society is actively engaged as a participant in the design, monitoring and evaluation of this process and contributes towards public debate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. A public, financially sustainable work plan for all the above is developed by the host government, including measurable targets, a timetable for implementation, and an assessment of potential capacity constraints.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Budget line

Which of the two CoST budget lines are you applying to? Please mark one or both boxes.

Budget line 1: Technical assistance and capacity building (TA)	
Expertise will be provided in particular areas (e.g. data collection and assurance, facilitation, technical advice) or capacity building (e.g. delivering training, workshops and seminars, drafting operational manuals, speaking at conferences). The costs associated with receiving these services (e.g. hire of a training room) are also covered.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Budget line 2: Financial assistance (FA)

Grants are available to contribute towards the MSG and assurance group operation, as well as expenses arising in relation to implementing CoST, such as office running costs, domestic travel, events, website and communication materials, publication, translation.

